

VOL. 9 No. 5 SEPT. • OCT. 1981



# ON THE AIR



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PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY by the GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS OF MARYLAND, INC.

*A special tribute to ....*

## WILL ROGERS

*America's No. 1 Radio Humorist  
of the 30's.*

**EXCLUSIVE!**

*Beginning in this issue, his  
celebrated Hearst syndicated  
newspaper column:*

**"Will Rogers** *Lez ....* **"**

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO: THE PRATT  
LIBRARY, HUMANITIES DEPT., BALTIMORE, MD.,  
AND THE HEARST SYNDICATE.



*Pomeroy '81*

COVER DESIGN: O.L. POMEROY



# • ON THE AIR •

Discords of Md., Inc.

A PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS OF MARYLAND, INC. FOUNDED 1972

3613 CHESTNUT AVE.  
BALTIMORE, MD., 21211

\*

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PRINTING: "THREE-TEN GRAPHICS, Ltd."

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## • IN THIS ISSUE •

	PAGE
EDITORIAL: "A TRIBUTE TO AN OLD FRIEND".....	1
WILL ROGERS SEZ: by WILL ROGERS.....	5
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON RADIO: (Maryland area network listings).....	7
AIRWAVES: by GENE.....	3
YESTERDAY'S RADIO LOGS: (Vintage radio ads).....	6
SIMPLY NOSTALGIA: (Dick Tracy gets arrested; "Johnny" quits after 41 years).....	5
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:.....	1
CLUB NEWS/MEMBERSHIP NOTES:.....	2
ALLEN'S MEMORIBILIA MANOR: ("WONDERS OF AMERICA.") by ALLAN CAPLAN.....	6
(A PAGE FROM) THE BIG BAND SCRAPBOOK: by VERNON BELT.....	4
PERSONALITY PROFILE: THE AMOS 'n ANDY SHOW. (Conclusion) by RAE DEO.....	7
RE-CORDIALLY YOURS: by GUY TRAVERS.....	9
PUZZLE PAGE: (Contest & Crossword).....	8
RADIO, AS RADIO USED TO BE: "PLUCKING MEMORY STRINGS." by OWENS (Part 3).....	4
THE SILENT MICROPHONE: (Obituaries).....	9
CLASSIFIED: (Members wants, club offers, ads.).....	Back cover.
OLD-TIME RADIO TID-BITS: (How Jolson Became A "Manny" Singer) by DANA R. DAFFIN.....	3

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PLEASE, NOTE: If a Red Star appears after your name on the address label, your membership has expired & this will be your LAST issue of On The Air until your dues are paid for the coming year. Due to the increased cost of mailing out renewal notices, this will be the only notice you will receive. So, "Look For A Star", & if one appears on your newsletter, PLEASE renew your membership now.

Gene Leitner,

Treasurer/Membership Chm.

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish to thank the following people, organizations, publications, OTR Clubs, and radio stations for submitting articles for this edition of On The Air: The Hearst Syndicate, The News-American, The Sunpapers, The Sunday Sun, Weekly Variety, Billboard, The Los Angeles Times, Radio Guide (June 1933), KQED, Los Angeles, Calif., WETA, Wash. D.C., The Big Broadcast, The Movie Buffs of Md., Inc., and (Posthumously) Mr. Will Rogers, of Claremore, Okla.

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## EDITORIAL

### "A TRIBUTE TO AN OLD FRIEND."

Radio.....It was born crackling and sputtering in 1920. It was a novelty, a play-thing, one of Gershwin's "passing fancies" that wasn't here to stay. But the child of the twenties grew. It cut it's teeth on the depression, came of age with World War II, and became an ever present part of life in the fifties. But somewhere between novelty and necessity it performed a remarkable task.

If you lived during that time you know the names, you know the places. You know the events. You know Burns and Allen, Fibber McGee and Mollie, and the War Of The Worlds. You knew that evil lurked in the hearts of men and you cringed at the sound of Inner Sanctum's door.....Radio. It gave us Will Rogers and Baby Snooks. Ma Perkins and F.D.R. It's taken us from the teapot dome to Water-gate. It's been a part of America and will hold a very special spot in our history.

To those of you like myself, one of that generation of "the theatre of the mind", this Editorial may seem like a tribute to an old friend. In a sense, really, wasn't that what radio drama, music and variety became for all of us?....."an old friend?" It began over 50 years ago with no hope for the future. Well, it did outlast the skeptics' predictions and became a way of life for us and we were as close to it as a life-long friend would be. It gave us many hours of listening pleasure and was there when we needed it most.

It has been almost 30 years since we have heard our old friend grace the airwaves, but the Golden Radio Buffs of Md. Inc. have not forgotten that friendship. As dedicated Old-Time Radio Buffs, we are just saying "thank you old friend" and thank you dear people of that golden era for a job well done!!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
From Vernon Belt, Chairman, Movie Buffs Of Md., Inc.

Our movie for October is "The Hunch-back of Notre Dame", the 1926 classic starring Lon Chaney, Sr. For more details call: 435-

6141.  
\*\*\*\*\*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Owens,

"Backward, turn backward, oh, time in thy flight - and make me a child again..... (well, not really - make me about 23 years old) when I got my first announcing job at WCAO-CBS when it was housed in that old colonial mansion at 811 W. Lanvale Street, near Fremont....You see, it was right there, that each Monday evening the high point of my air shift came when the network announcer intoned::: "Lux - presents...HOLLYWOOD! - and then C.B. DeMille took over. Ah....., those were the days: those happy moments "on the hill" - at WCAO, where we were, in those days, almost - 99-44/100% CBS programmed.

And now the reason for this letter. Enclosed, please find my SASE and RUSH! me my LUX Log, so that I can browse through it and reminisce those many hours at WCAO listening to the program.

RE-CORDially Yours,  
Guy Travers.

Dear Owens,

Barbara and I thoroughly enjoyed last week's meeting. I am enclosing a SASE for the Lux Radio Theatre log. Again, thanks for a really great entertaining, and informative meeting. Hope to see you at the Sept. get-together.

Sincerely,  
Richard Pearson,  
Arlington, Va.

(ED. NOTE: We had a very good response to the Lux log. So far, as of this writing, we have mailed out no less than 26 logs to the membership, both out-of state and local.

ED.)

Dear Owens,

I am enclosing a copy of our BIM Bulletin. Please feel free to use it in your newsletter. Also I again want to say I love the "new" format

Best Regards,  
John Jeppi, BIM of Md.



## Important Notice

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLUB LIBRARIAN:

We are now in the midst of completely re-vamping and re-cataloguing our current tape library. Since I have taken over the position as your club librarian, I found many of our tapes to be of in - audible quality & not suitable for loaning out to our membership. Therefore, at the last board meeting, it was decided to re - dubb & re - edit our library, & issue new listings to our members!

We feel this decision was necessary as our obligation to you, our members, to give you good clear radio programs. So, until new listings are ready, no more additions will be added to the current tape library. We will, however honor any request from the old listing while the new ones are being prepared, using our new Dolby - Equalizer system.

The first page of the new listing should be ready by the first of next year. (Jan. or Mar issues.) PLEASE be patient! This process does take a little time to turn out good quality programs. If you have any good quality programs you care to donate to the library, please send them to me at the address below.

Jerry Michael,  
Club Librarian  
1905 Eastfield Rd.  
Baltimore, Md., 21222  
(301) 282 - 6057

### "THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY"

(An Old-Time Radio broadcast re-creation)  
Will be appearing on the following dates at these locations:

Thurs. Sept. 10- Essex Senior Center.  
Baltimore, Md. 12:45 P.M.

Mon. Sept. 21- Loch Raven Senior Center.  
Baltimore, Md. 12:45 P.M.

Thurs. Oct. 29- 6912 Reisterstown Rd.  
Baltimore, Md. 1:30 P.M.

### -ATTENTION!-

ALL OUT-OF-STATE MEMBERS. Beginning with the next issue, we want to add your area's OTR listings to our "What's Happening On Radio" column so we can have a "Nostalgia Radio Network" of OTR programming. Send any listing you would like to include to the Editor c/o this newsletter.



## GRB MEETING!

SEPT. 19, '81 7:30 P.M., St. Mathias Hall  
6400 Belair Rd. (next to Dunkin' Donuts)  
1 mi. S. of B/way Exit 32, on Belair Rd. (Rt. 1)  
Lighted Parking Lot - Ground Level - No Steps  
M-TA-Bus (15) drops you at the door.

## OTR MOVIE NITE

**AMOS 'n' ANDY**  
(FROM THE 1950'S TV SERIES)

**The Lone Ranger**

(TV MOVIE FROM THE 1950'S)

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION!

*"Big Band Cavalcade"*

FEATURING SOME OF THE GREAT NAMES OF  
THE BIG BAND ERA, IN A 1 HR. FILM PRESENTATION.

REFRESHMENTS: DUNKIN' DONUTS, COFFEE  
CHIPS, PRETZELS, AND ANY OTHER "GOODIES"  
YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.

PLEASE POST AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

CLUB MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

SEPT. 19th.

NOV. 14th.

Next newsletter deadline for all articles,  
photos, ads, & contest entries will be Oct. 15,  
1981. (Nov. - Dec. edition)

NO TIME TO WRITE? PHONE IN YOUR OTR NEWS  
STORY!!! USE OUR NEWSLETTER "HOT-LINE".  
CALL: (301) 388-1976.

Coming in our next issue:

"You Had To Be There" by Ed Murrow.

"The Big Bands Form A Hall of Fame In Baltimore". by C.R. Osley.

"The Highest Paid Performer IN Radio". by  
Rae Deo.





## AIRWAVES by Gene

MEMBERSHIP and CLUB NOTES

Those of you not in attendance at our last meet really missed an interesting & informative, if not entertaining one. Two of our members, Ed Owens & Francis Werneth were the hosts. Ed led off the meeting with a very fine talk and display of some of his antique radios from his collection. Then Francis Werneth gave a brief talk about more radio premiums, displaying some. Then he and his wife presented "live" a very funny skit from a Fibber McGee and Mollie show. A surprise visit by WGBM's Joe Knight turned out to be the highlight of the evening when he announced that he brought with him a new radio show that he is in the process of trying to get on the air. The pilot show, which he played for us, is a half - hour drama called "Two Coffins For Laramie", a Civil War story that really was full of the kind of drama that we used to listen to during the Golden era. We wish Joe all the success with this venture, and Joe assured us that that show will be available soon for our library. ....Our club sends its sympathy to the family of Charlie Purcell, a Golden Mike recipient and host of WCAO's "Nocturne" program. He will be missed by all of us who knew him. (Be sure to read the very fine tribute to Charlie from his good friend Guy Travers in his column on page 9 of this issue)....Next meet will be on Sept. 19th, and again we have a good one for you. "Old - Time Radio Movie night" featuring an Amos 'n' Andy show from the TV series of the fifties, a Lone Ranger movie, also from the fifties, plus Vernon Belmont will bring one of his very fine feature films about one of the Big Bands. ...Try to attend this meet if you can. It sounds like a great one.....Our 10th anniversary will be coming up in February and our editor tells me that the Jan. issue will be full of extra features, now being prepared for our "Big 10" edition! Until we meet again, another time and another issue, Au Revoir & pleasant memories.

GENE

## Old-Time Radio Tid-Bits by Dana R. Daffin

3

How Al Jolson became a black faced "Mammy" singer.

Around 1900 a Negro valet supposedly told Al Jolson, as the story goes: "You'd be much funnier if you blacked your face like mine, and talked like I do."

A short time later, Al developed his blackface routine, and as he toured the country with Ron Shields, Al's brother Harry, and Joe Palmer, it was Al who became the predominant part of the act.

### NOW BOOKING FOR THE 1982-83 SEASON!

Nostalgia Radio Productions Presents:  
The Old-Time Radio Road Show

## "The Sounds Of Yesterday"

Featuring a live re-creation of what an Old-Time Radio broadcast was like during the Golden Era. (A full 1 hour production)  
For complete details and booking dates, write to:

Gene Leitner, Pgrm. Coordinator,  
Nostalgia Radio Productions,  
7506 Iriquois Ave.  
Baltimore, Md., 21217  
Phone: (301) 388-1976

## 50 Years ago.... 1931 in BALTIMORE

\*\* Baltimore-- The first all talking motion picture to be made by Amos 'n' Andy is now in Baltimore at Keith's theatre.

Taken from the nightly air adventures of Amos 'n' Andy, "Check and Double Check", the first picture to be made by the greatest character delineators in history, is said to cover the entire range of characters offered over the air, plus a stirring story of love among white people.

"Check and Double Check" presents Amos 'n' Andy and their Fresh Air Taxicab Company, "Incorporated", as well as the Kingfish, Lightning and the other negro characters of the radio show.



# RADIO... AS RADIO USED TO BE

*"Plucking Memory Strings"*

*by Owens*

## PART III

While we're plucking memory strings, can you go back with me to the days when Van Heflin was that smooth sleuth Phillip Marlowe, or Richard Widmark was filling the columns as Front Page Farrell? There were so many heroes in those days: Bulldog Drummond, Ellery Queen, Martin Kane, Mr. Keene, and Mr. District Attorney.

People complain that television's golden hours of drama are over, pointing to Philco Playhouse, The Armstrong Circle Theatre and Playhouse 90 as examples. But do they remember when radio gave us the Columbia Workshop, the Mercury Theatre, Screen Guild Players, Family Theatre, Grand Central Station, Helen Hayes Theatre and so many other dramas? ...Do you remember "Roses & Drums" or "The War Of The Worlds"? Were you listening when Spencer Tracy & Pat O'Brien did "What Price Glory"? or Loretta Young & Orson Welles starred in "Jane Eyre"? (That was Lux Presents Hollywood with your producer, Mr. Cecil B. DeMille.) Name any star of stage, screen, and radio who didn't appear on the Lux Program, and you have a better memory than I have.

I guess Mr. First Nighter was my favorite with Barbara Luddy & Les Tremayne, starring in the Little Theatre Off Times Square. Our seats were always third row center, and there was always an usher to inform us ... "smoking in the downstairs & outer lobby only, please." Whatever the adventure or love story on the stage that evening, we built the sets in our own "mind's eye" and we could see the action just the way we wanted it to take place was Barbara Luddy tall & blonde or a short brunette? She was what you wanted her to be just by using your imagination. And that dulcet voice never once let you down. Radio was a medium for voices and the spoken word. If we listen hard we can still hear the worried voice of the announcer as he leads us into another episode of "Just Plain Bill", or the real life drama of "Helen Trent. Doom hung over the heads of so many soap opera heroines, that the afternoons seemed awashed with tears,

(TO BE CONTINUED)

*A page from....*

## The BIG BAND SCRAPBOOK

*by Vernon Bell*

For the past 6 editions, we have covered the music scene from 1900 to 1935. Everything was reflected by the signs of the times so when January of 1935 rolled in, the depression was slowly being put to rest and the public needed a lift. The swing bands, of which we wrote about in the last issue, were a part of that lift and the man who started it was Benny Goodman.

Born on May 30, 1909 in Chicago, Benjamin David Goodman was the eighth of eleven children. He received his early musical training in the Synagogues in and around Chicago until he was 10 and then to the Hull House, a musical school of some prominence. For 2 yrs. before he started playing professionally at the age of 12, he worked with the big Jazzmen of the day, with his biggest moment coming on Aug. 8, 1923, when he played a date with the legendary Bix Beiderbecke. He eventually landed a job with the Ben Pollack Orchestra, which took him to New York in 1928. He then secured jobs with Red Nichols, Don Voorhees, and Frank Blavk. He became a pit man for musical comedies and played radio and record dates.

He started his own orchestra in 1931, and it played for a Broadway show; "Free For All". The following year he organized a band for Russ Columbo's debut as an orchestra leader, and by 1933 was one of the highest paid (\$300.00 a week) players in the New York area, which was an enormous salary for that point in time.

His first real breakthrough came when the National Biscuit Company hired him for their Saturday night radio show. These broadcasts now afforded the whole country an opportunity to hear Benny & before long he was on his way. We will write more of Benny & his success, when we get together again & explore another page from.....The Big Band Scrapbook. See you then.



# "WILL ROGERS"

Sez....."

by  
**Will Rogers**



Politics is a funny game. Take congress for instance. Every time they make a joke it's a law...And every time they make a law it's a joke!....You can't go out and git a war like you used to could...just on a minute's notice, you know. Wars is gittin' kinda hard to arrange You got to bill them way ahead....When a Republican turns Democrat that is just like a horse theif going to church...This here depression we're a havin' is just like a train accident. In 1928 and 1929, you remember? That's when the train hit all of us...We're so scared now that we drive up to the track and we won't do anything. We just stand there and look, and look and we won't cross....We're so scared. We think it might turn around and come back and hit us again....Me and Mrs. Rogers and all the little Rogers will be leavin' for Hollywood in a few days. Seems they want me to try one of them new talkin' pitchures... Speakin' of Hollywood, Sodum and Gommorah were a couple of babes in the woods, compared to that town.

'Nuff said for now.

Yours truly,  
Will Rogers

## Simply Nostalgia

There's a reporter at the Sacramento Bee named Dick Tracy who says his name causes problems. He said the worst time was when he and another youth named Gary Cooper were out past curfew in their hometown and a policeman stopped them. Asked his name Tracy replied, "Dick Tracy Sir," at which he said the officer's jaws tightened. "And you?" the officer asked, of the other youth. "I suppose you're Sam Ketchum?" "No, I'm Gary Cooper, Honest." "Smart kids," replied the officer. "You're both under arrest!"

Johnny Quits After 41 Years

5

## Last Call for Philip Morris

Phillip Morris Inc.'s famous bellboy, "Johnny" retired a few years ago after 41 years and millions of calls for "Phil-lip Mor-rees!" John Louis Roventini, a midget, quit his job as a New York bellboy over 41 years ago to do commercials for Phillip Morris Inc. Tobacco Co.

Roventini had only ~~one~~ line but it made him famous and helped skyrocket the companies sales. His cry, "Call for Phil-lip Mor-rees," was heard more than a million times across the country on radio and television (pardon the expression) commercials. The company in announcing his retiremant, described the (at that time) 64 year old Roventini "as the world's most famous living trademark." It said his retirement "marks the end of an era."

From 1933 to 1947 Roventini was heard on as many as four radio shows a day. Those were live shows, not taped, so he had to be at the studio to belt out his one-liner on cue. his carrer began while working at the New Yorker Hotel, where he was featured as the "smallest bellboy in the world." Alfred E. Lyon, at that time the president for sales, and Milton Blow, president of the firm's advertising agency, asked him to locate a "Mr. Phillip Morris".

Roventini went through the hotel singing out "Call for Phil-lip Mor-rees" and the firms two executives loved it. They offered him a \$100 a week contract to do commercials for the firm. After some hesitation, "Johnny" quit his \$25 a week job and took it.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* ATTENTION! \*  
\* ALL FRANK SINATRA FANS \*  
\* The International Sinatra Society \*  
\* is now accepting members. All interested \*  
\* parties should write to: \*  
\* International Sinatra Society \*  
\* P.O. Box # 1481 \*  
\* Arlington, Va. 22210 \*  
\* Also, they are trying to organize a Balti- \*  
\* more chapter. If anyone is interested, they \*  
\* can call Mickey Leicht, at 574-3744. \*  
\* \*\*\*\*\*





## Yesterday's •RADIO LOGS•

**WHEC** THE STATION LISTENERS BUILT!

**SATAN'S WAITIN'**  
8:30 P. M.

**THE CANDID MICROPHONE!**  
9:30 P. M.

Premiere: An unusual psychological mystery drama series. Allen Foot catches people in the act of being themselves!

THIS IS BING CROSBY—4 P. M.  
Bing visits the Palace of Ptochobolus, and describes Phillips, his Frenchman-educated-at-Oxford driver.

7:00—Beulah  
7:15—Jack Smith Show  
7:30—Club 13  
7:45—Edward R. Murrow

8:00—Mystery Theater  
9:00—Life with Luigi  
10:00—Johnny Deller  
10:30—Philip Marlowe

**Tonight at 10:00**

**JAMES STEWART**  
and **ELEANOR PARKER**  
in  
"Next Time We Love"  
A fine play you'll enjoy!

★ And don't miss  
7:00 BEATRICE KAY  
8:30 FATHER KNOWS BEST  
Starring Robert Young  
11:00 JACK ROSS: NEWS

**WHAM** Rochester's No. 1 Station  
1160 ON YOUR DIAL

TONIGHT ON RADIO  
Yes, there are  
Flying Saucers!

Do they come  
from another planet?  
TUNE IN  
"WE, THE  
PEOPLE"  
TONIGHT AT 8:30

RADIO  
WHAM

Oscar Bradley Clark,  
Don Seymour, M. C.

**TARZAN OF THE AIR**

A PROGRAM WITH A READYMADE AUDIENCE  
PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY  
EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, INC. TARZANA, CALIFORNIA  
© 1931 by  
EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

## ALLAN'S.... \*MEMORIBILIA MANOR\*

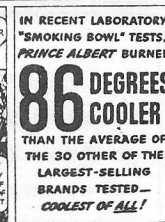
Greetings, friends, and welcome through the creaking door to the dark, dark, dingy & thoroughly forbodeing hall of the Memoribilia Manor. If I could only find my oil can in all this stuff, I'd fix that confounded noisy door. Oh, well, I guess it's good for scaring off burglars.

This time, we have an ad from the December 1941 issue of Popular Science for Prince Albert pipe tobacco. P.A., as it was popularly known, was the sponsor for many years of the Grand Ole Opry on radio.

This ad was one of a series concerning "The Wonders Of America," and featured "The Sound Wizards" who produced sound effects for radio programs. ....Well I see that it's time to close the creaking door until the next issue of "On The Air." This is your "keeper of the archives" saying goodbye and pleasant dreams? Hummmmm!!!!.....BAM!!!

## WONDERS OF AMERICA

Sound  
Wizards





# PERSONALITY -PROFILE-

The *Amos 'n' Andy Show*  
by Rae Deo

(CONCLUSION)

All of the characters in Amos 'n' Andy were presented as sympathetic, and they lived in a society centered around jobs and money, and was parallel to middle-class whites, rather than below it. The comedy wasn't as much ethnic as it was about love and money and in those depression years when millions of people were broke and out money, wondering where the next dollar was coming from, they all (both Black and White people) could identify with Amos 'n' Andy, or the Kingfish, in his quest to get his hands on some easy money, if not always legally. We laughed at all of this to be sure, and it eased the anxiety if only for a few minutes, of being without any money and jobless!

The popularity of the show during the depression years, was not because the program dealt with Blacks, but because it had to do with money. And also, too, whether it was about Blacks or Whites, Germans, or Jews, it happened to be a very-funny-program! Today, Amos 'n' Andy is gone forever, forgotten by those who want to forget it!....But remembered by Radio Buffs, like ourselves, elsewhere in America for what it was; The most listened-to comedy program on radio. It is a program out of another era, when we all were a lot younger than we are now. I know there isn't any point trying to analyze the Amos 'n' Andy Show as having some deep hidden social-logical significance. Gosden and Correll were touched with the God-given gift of comedy, & they shared it the only way they knew how, through the characters and voices of Amos 'n' Andy. They were genius to the radio world but to themselves they were: "Just a couple of boys trying to get along."

THIRTY.

Are you an Old-Time Movie fan???

Want to enjoy those good old movies that we loved during those Golden Days of Radio? Then join: THE MOVIE BUFFS OF MD., INC. Call Vernon Belt at: (301) 435-6641 or write to: P.O. box #4672 Baltimore, Md., 21212.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON RADIO

### The Local Scene

#### ON THE DIAL

- \* WFBR-AM (1300 KHZ)      \* WBJC-FM (91.5 MHZ)
- \* WCEM-AM (680 KHZ)      \* WCVT-FM (89.7 MHZ)
- \* WBAL-AM (1090 KHZ)      \* WRBS-FM (95.1 MHZ)
- \* WITH-AM (1090 KHZ)

#### WASH. D.C.

- \* WAMU-FM (88.5 MHZ)      \* WETA-FM (88.9 MHZ)

#### ARLINGTON, VA.

- \* WEAM-AM (1160 KHZ)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WEEKDAYS:

- \* Music of Your Life: (All Day) WITH-AM
- \* Play It Again, Ed: 12:30 P.M. (Mon.) 12:45 P.M. (Fri.) WAMU-FM
- \* Allen Christian Show: 9: P.M.-Mid. WBAL-AM
- \* Carousel: (Mon. & Tues.) 10:00 A.M. WBJC-FM
- \* Bobby Short Show: (MUSIC FROM BROADWAY) 7:00 P.M. WBJC-FM (Fri.)
- \* Music at Seven: (Dinner Music) 7:00 P.M. WETA-FM (Tues., Wed. & Fri.)
- \* The Big Bands: w/ Al Ross. Noon- 3:00 P.M. WEAM-AM
- \* Centerpiece: 1:00 P.M. WETA-FM (Wed.)
- \* Concert Hall: 10:00 A.M. (Mon.) Noon: (Thurs.) WCVT-FM
- \* Opera House: 10:00 A.M. (Fri.) WCVT-FM
- \* Fred Fisk Show: 8:00 P.M. (Tues. & Thurs.) WAMU-FM
- \* CBS Radio Mystery Theatre: 12:00 Midnight. WFBR-AM

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SATURDAY

- \* Ranger Bill: (Kid Show) 10:00 A.M. WRBS-FM
- \* Unshakled: (Drama) 6:00 P.M. WRBS-FM
- \* The Import Show: (w/Dave Stevenson) 4:00 P.M. WCVT-FM
- \* Allen Christian Show: 9:00 P.M.-Mid. WBAL-AM

\*\*\*\*\*

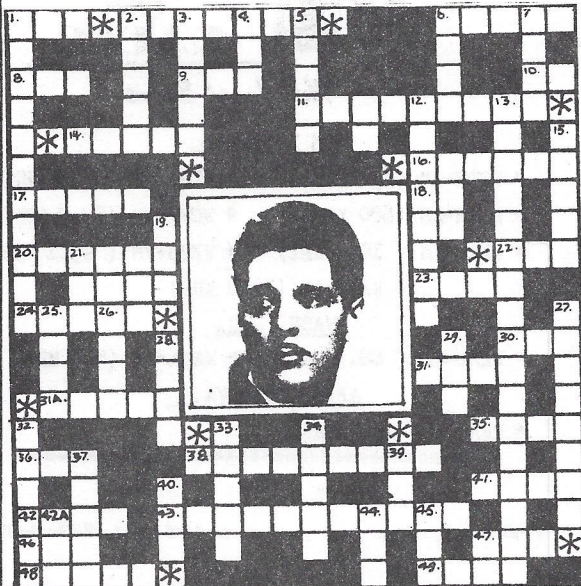
#### SUNDAY

- \* Insight: w/Eddie Fenton. 7:30 A.M. WCEM-AM
- \* Star Wars: (NPR Theatre) 6:00 P.M. WBJC-FM
- \* Sounds Like Yesterday: 7:00 P.M. CANCELLED!!
- \* Philadelphia Orch. 8:00 P.M. WBJC-FM
- \* Big Broadcast: 7:30-11:00 P.M. w/ John Hickman, host. WAMU-FM



# PUZZLE PAGE

by C.R. Osley



## ACROSS

- 1.-2. (Pictured) OTR announcer.
6. Harding or Harum.
8. A radio network. (Int.)
9. Negative answer.
10. Mr. Wynn or Mr. Prentiss.
11. Another Otr Announcer.
14. Stoates Cotsworth role.
16. M/s Brooks, to her friends.
17. Mr. Bergan
18. OTR News service, still being used. (Int.)
20. Jim Jordan's better half.
22. "Carnival Of \_\_\_\_" (Local OTR show, WBAL.)
24. "\_\_\_\_ White."
30. WWII War Zone. (Int.)
31. "\_\_\_\_ Purple".
- 31a. "...Who's that little chatterbox?"
35. Singer, was known as "Mr. relaxation."
36. "All points bulletin!" (Int.)
38. "\_\_\_\_ This?"
41. \_\_\_\_ Lugusi. 42. John \_\_\_\_ King (OTR Annkn)
43. "Banjo Eyes." (2 words.)
46. Ever. (Poetic.)
47. "You \_\_\_\_ There!"
48. Baltimore born OTR singer, Ross.
49. "\_\_\_\_ well, that ends well."
23. \_\_\_\_ Dillon, U.S. Marshall.

## DOWN

1. Fred Allen's announcer. (2 words.)
2. An OTR actor played many \_\_\_\_.
3. The "Waulkegen Wit".
5. Leonard Sly, alias \_\_\_\_ Rogers.
6. "\_\_\_\_ Mama Mia?"
7. "Beware, the \_\_\_\_ of March"
12. Role played by Howard McNear. (2 words.)
13. Singing group, led by 27 down. (4 words.)
15. Silent film comedian Billy \_\_\_\_.
19. "\_\_\_\_ Man's Family."
21. "\_\_\_\_ down to your nearest store, etc., etc."
25. Marie Wilson role.
26. One of Bob Hope's early sponsors, \_\_\_\_ Soap.
27. Cowboy singer, wrote "Tumbling Tumbleweeds"
28. A rhyming verse.
29. Sgt. Friday's partner, \_\_\_\_ Ramano.
32. Arthur Stanley Jefferson.
33. The other half of 32 down.
34. You needed this to be an OTR performer.
37. OTR boy singer, discovered by 43 across.
39. "Light's \_\_\_\_!"

40. \_\_\_\_ Burnie.
- 42a. "I'll be there \_\_\_\_ long."
44. \_\_\_\_ King Cole.
45. WW II wartime rationing org. (Int.)
47. Mr. Jolson, to his friends.



## CONTEST

### FREE RADIO PROGRAMS

Who is in the picture above? The earliest correct answer wins **2** FREE Radio Programs. Winner and Answer to be listed in the next issue.

THE EARLIEST POSTMARK WINS

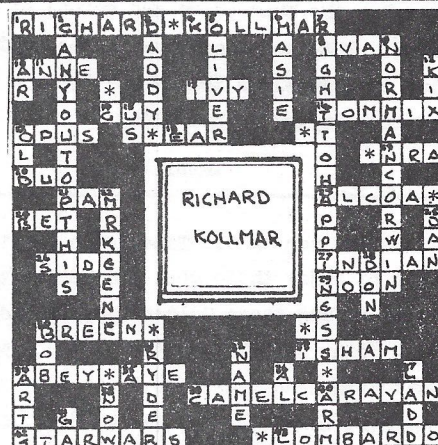


Address all entries to: OTR PHOTO CONTEST,  
C/O ON THE AIR; 3613 CHESTNUT AVENUE, BALTO.  
MD., 21211.

All entries must be postmarked no later  
than midnight, October 15th, 1981. The ear-  
liest postmark wins.

Congratulations! Once again, fellow GRB  
member Bill Ryan has correctly identified our  
"mystery personality". Last month's entry  
was none other than E.A. ALEXANDER.

Our clue for this month's entry: She won  
a "Tony" in 1947 as best supporting actress  
in the Broadway production of "I Remember  
Mama." Also, she sure wasn't a "Southern" gal.



SOLUTION: JULY, AUG.



# RE-CORDially YOURS, Guy Travers



"THE NIGHT HAS DRAWN IT'S SHADE ACROSS THE AZURE SKY....." We are certain that these words have a familiar ring to all who fondly recall "Radio's Golden Age" on the local scene. ...It really doesn't seem so long ago to us, that they heralded the midnight hour, each week-day evening, on the "Voice of Baltimore"- WCAO. ...But actually it has been quite a few years now, since these words emanated regularly from Loew's Theatre, read by the late Charles Purcell, with the organ accompaniment provided by the late Roland Nuttrell. Charlie passed away on July 20th.

It was back in 1931 that I first met Charlie Purcell, when I was a member of the WCAO Children's Hour, hosted by the late Edward Warner of The Sunpapers-(brother of long-time staffer at WCBM, Newell Warner.)-originating each Saturday morning from that old Colonial Mansion on west Lanvale Street. Besides Charlie, memory obliging, the staff at that time included Uncle Bill O'Toole, Al Stevens, Bert Hanauer, Capt. John Carnaghan, and Newell Warner. Just about nine years later, when I joined the WCAO announcing staff, Charlie had become the Chief Announcer, and I worked with such talented mike men as Ray Moffett, John Ademy, Francis Dice, and Don Riley. And, since I was usually assigned to the evening shift, listening to "NOCTURNE" soon became a pleasant nightly habit. After this soothing segment of poetry and music, we always concluded our broadcast day with a recording of "Goodnight", sung by Maurice Gronsky, on an old Columbia disc-and for which many listeners remained tuned so faithfully night after night (Some years later this show served as inspiration for a series I did in Washington - "SLUMBER CARAVAN")

Yes, it has been quite awhile - more than forty years now...but few on the local scene have contributed so much to Radio's Golden Age as Charlie Purcell, who was to so many - for so long: "The Voice Of Baltimore".....

Have you heard about the newly organized Society for the Preservation and Restoration of the Big Bands? - through the efforts of one of our town's most enthusiastic Big Band boosters - Nelson Knode, of the Knode Music Center, and a well known musician in his own right. For complete information, contact the Catonsville Recreation and Parks Council, any weekday between 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. - (301) 747-3883. Best of luck to this worthy project - and to all concerned!....Right now we would like to take a moment to congratulate Ye Olde Editor on the fine job he is doing with the newsletter...we have heard a number of favorable comments in recent months...Next month, we'll take a look at some of the record labels that were around in the 30's and 40's. Until then, this is RECORDially Yours.....

Guy Travers.



## THE SILENT MICROPHONE

9

*Gone.... but not  
Forgotten*

RUDOLPH SCHBAMM : Composer/conductor of more than 15,000 radio shows on NBC, CBS & ABC. Died April 6, '81. He was 73 years old.

\*\*\*\*\*  
MARY FORAN: Radio actress, was a regular on the Red Skelton Show, Dr. Kildare and others. Died April 10, '81. She was 61 years old.

\*\*\*\*\*  
EDDIE SAUTER: Composer & arranger, during the Big Band era. Died April 21, '81.

\*\*\*\*\*  
ALICE ION: Singer, and probably best known as Lawrence Welk's first "Champagne Lady", Died April 24, '81. She was 54 years old.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HAL BLOCK: Comedy writer for the Bob Hope & Burns & Allen radio shows. Died June 16, '81. He was 67 years old.

\*\*\*\*\*  
PEE WEE IRWIN: Great Jazz trumpet player with The Benny Goodman & The Tommy Dorsey Orchestras, Died June 20, '81. He was 68 years old.

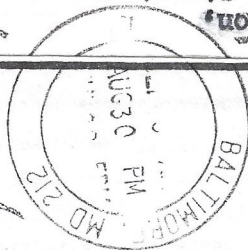
\*\*\*\*\*  
CHARLES PURCELL: Pioneering Baltimore radio personality; Died July 22. Mr. Purcell, for many years was the host of "NOCTURNE", a late night poetry & organ-music show from midnight to 1:00 A. M., over WCAO in Baltimore. In 1975 he was honored by the Golden Radio Buffs of Md., Inc. at their 4th annual banquet, when he received the club's "Golden Mike Award" for his many years of service to local Baltimore broadcasting. He will be missed by the members & Board of the GRB who had the honor and privilege of meeting him on that occasion, as well as his fellow broadcasters who knew him personally. "Nocturne and the midnight voice we loved so well, now you belong to the ages."

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* A REMINDER!!! \*  
\* Don't forget to "look for a star", & \*  
\* if one is on the address label of your news- \*  
\* letter your dues'r' due, and your membership \*  
\* will soon expire. \*  
\* \*\*\*\*\* \*



AUG 30 1981

Ronald S. Baron,  
2475 W. 16th Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224



3613 Chestnut Avenue  
Baltimore, Md., 21211

**ON THE AIR**



## **CLASSIFIED.**

### BUMPER STICKERS!

Thanks to Dan Holtzman and Alan Caplan, we now have a very nice bumper sticker for your car, or anywhere you care to display it. It shows our club logo and the words: "GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS OF MD., INC." in black with a blue or gold background, and measures approx. 3" square. To receive your sticker, send 75¢ plus 25¢ (to cover the cost of handling and mailing) to: BUMPER STICKER, c/o ON THE AIR, 3613 CHESTNUT AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD., 21211.

### THE OLD - TIME RADIO CROSS - WORD PUZZLE & GAME BOOK

This book, published by the Golden Radio Buffs of Md., Inc., contains over 100 questions, word games & cross - word puzzles all about the Golden Days of Radio. Test YOUR knowledge of OTR - see how many you can answer! A perfect gift for a friend. Great for parties. Send 75¢ (Plus 25¢ postage & handling) to: "GAME BOOK", c/o On The Air. 3613 Chestnut Ave. Balto. Md., 21211